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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/714,622	11/18/2003	Chin-Lu Hsu	MR1035-1332	3238

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EXAMINER

BOTTORFF, CHRISTOPHER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3618

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/714,622	HSU, CHIN-LU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christopher Bottorff	3618	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details. Note the use of the term "said" in lines 8 and 10.

Claim Objections

Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities: the term "couples" on line 2 should be "coupled." Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-20 include numerous instances of indefinite language. In particular, several components are introduced in the plural, but are subsequently referenced in the singular without defining which of the plural components is the subject of the reference.

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For example, claim 1 recites "two rigid frames" on line 2 and recites "said rigid frame" on lines 7 and 8 without stating which of the two rigid frames is the subject of the "said rigid frame" recitation. Similar indefinite language is also present on claim 1, line 15, "said rigid frame;" claim 5, lines 1-2, "the lever combination" and line 3, "said linking frame;" claim 11, line 6, "said rigid frame," line 10, "said rigid frame," line 13, "said lever combination," and line 15, "said tooth frame;" claim 16, line 9, "said tooth frame;" claim 17, line 3, "said lever combination;" claim 18, line 3, "said lever combination;" and claim 19, line 9, "said lever combination" and lines 10-11, "said lever combination."

In addition, claim 1, line 14, recites "gearing to said tooth frame" following a recitation of a transformation combination and a lever combination. However, the claim does not clearly state which components are geared to the tooth frame.

Applicant should carefully review each claim and amend as necessary to ensure a clear and accurate definition of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Quintile US 5,195,803.

Quintile discloses a wheelchair for raising an occupant from a reclined position to a sitting position. See Figure 1. The wheelchair comprises a frame body having two rigid frames 12A, 12B and two linking frames 62. See Figure 2. The linking frames 62 each comprise a tooth frame 82. Two lever combinations 104 are located at a top of the rigid frames. A transformation combination 84, 90, 92 is coupled to the frame body via frames 62 and is guided by the lever combinations 104. See Figures 2 and 5. The transformation combination 84, 90, 92 gears to one of the tooth frames 82 of one of the linking frames 62.

A shaft 66 for extending is also provided with one endpoint of the shaft coupled to one of the lever combinations via elements 74, 42, and 106 and another endpoint of the shaft 66 coupled to the transformation combination 84, 90, 92. See Figure 2.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 11, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action. The combination of elements defined in each of these independent claims are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the prior art. Thus, the claimed combinations distinguish over the prior art.

Claims 2-10, 12-15, 17, and 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2-10,

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12-15, and 20 depend from independent claims 1, 11, and 19. Claim 17 recites a combination of elements that is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the prior art.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Weir et al., Meyer et al., Jensen et al., Mankowski, Bergstrom et al., Pillot, Bobichon, Kauffmann, Porchéron, Gutierrez, Nelson et al., and Wing disclose raising wheelchairs.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Bottorff whose telephone number is (571) 272-6692. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Ellis can be reached on (571) 272-6914. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Christopher Bottorff